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TOP SECRET

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GENERAL

1. European reaction to CFM--A Belgian Foreign Office official has informed US Embassy Brussels that his government is in favor of a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers. The official also expressed the view that Western refusal to hold a CFM meeting would have "an injurious effect" on the Western European people who need to be convinced that no stone had been left unturned to adjust East-West differences.
2. British concern over Japanese treaty--A British Foreign Office official has informed US Embassy London that the UK has been concerned for some time over developments in Japan and now feels that the crisis in Korea underlines the necessity for regularizing the Japanese position "before it is too late." The British official expressed his personal belief that the "briefest sort" of liberal, non-restrictive treaty with Japan should be concluded, a treaty which would do little more than end the state of war and permit Japan to apply for membership in the UN and other international bodies. He feels that such a treaty could be negotiated with relatively little delay and would have the added advantage of being awkward for the USSR to oppose. The official concluded that the British would have no objection to separate security arrangements between the US and Japan.
3. British views on Kashmir dispute--According to US Embassy London, the British Foreign Office does not believe that agitation in Pakistan over the Kashmir situation has reached a point requiring early action by the Security Council. The British will attempt at the 4-10 January Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference

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- 1 -

Doc. No. 68

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DATE: 23/1/77

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

to have India and Pakistan discuss their differences. The British believe that further Security Council action now would seriously impair the proposed Nehru-Liaquat talks.

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FAR EAST

4. INDOCHINA: Carpentier's views on military situation--
In a farewell call on US Minister Heath in Saigon, General Carpentier, departing commander of French forces in the Far East, expressed the view that a Viet Minh attack is not likely to occur in Indochina during the next two months unless supported by Chinese troops. Carpentier reported no indications of Chinese military preparations for early participation in such an operation and stated it would take "some weeks" for the Chinese to mount it. Commenting that the Chinese would not intervene until a Viet Minh attack had failed, Carpentier expressed confidence in the ability of the French to hold a Viet Minh attack two months from now, after the arrival of reinforcements and materiel in January.
5. KOREA: ROK "mass executions" reported legally performed--
US Embassy Seoul reports that UN officials have investigated charges cabled by foreign correspondents that ROK civil authorities have performed mass executions of prisoners without trial and that the UN officials are satisfied that the executions, however badly handled, were the result of sentence passed by a legally constituted court in accordance with law. According to the Embassy, the ROK Government has suspended executions, as a result of public furor and foreign press reports, until a suitable place can be found and a proper method followed. The Embassy indicates that President Rhee has ordered speedier trials improvement of prison conditions, the observance of normal decencies in carrying out future executions, and the establishment of a program for reviewing capital sentences.

- 2 -